

October 21, 1960

Dr. Lawrence Dunkleman
Goddard Space Flight Center
Anacostia Naval Station
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Doctor Dunkleman:

Thank you for your letter and the reprints. I was very sorry to learn of the difficulty that might impede your coming to our meeting on the 29th. I wish I had known of this sooner in order to try to meet the situation but even so, I am trying to see if we can't make some arrangements that would make it possible for you to make this visit, at least from the financial standpoint. If so, you should be hearing from Mr. Derbyshire at the Space Science Board within a few days and I hope that you might at least anticipate the possibility, if it otherwise suited you, by making tentative travel arrangements. If we could subsidize the trip, would you be able to come out here for Friday afternoon, October 28th for some discussion of ultraviolet problems, as well as to sit in on the meeting on the 29th? As I stated, Mr. Derbyshire will be calling you if we can arrange this in the short time available.

I was very much interested in your report NRL 4647, although I appreciate that you have now superseded this filter with your nickel sulfate preparation. Your paper, on page 2, refers to a considerable series of negative results. Have these been published in any form? They might well save further investigators a great deal of trouble.

I was also interested in your reference to cellulose caprate as a UV transmitting cement which is obviously an indispensable technical element. Would you be able to help me in procuring this material?

We are anxious to move more energetically in the development of exobiological instrumentation and are now looking for a research associate with a strong background in optics and electronics for the purpose. Any suggestion you might have along these lines would be most welcome. Dr. Spencer in the Chemistry Department here mentioned a Dr. Tanner who may once have been a colleague of yours and who, I understand, has since gone to medical school. Do you happen to know his present whereabouts and interests?

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics